

Dear Committee,

I am writing to support S.B. 43 and S.B. 90 and H.B. 5254 to extend liability protection to town for public use of town property.

I am a member, and former Chair, of the Columbia Open Space Committee and I was involved in the purchase of a large local farm, the Zegda Farm which has been opened to town people for passive recreation. There is also a community garden and many educational activities taking place on this parcel. Individuals utilize the hiking trails year-round for walking and cross country skiing.

In addition to our dedicated open space there is own town owned property that is also used on a casual basis for recreation.

I strongly believe that absent evidence of cross negligence or the creation of attractive hazards towns should be protected from personal injury law suits. Knowing how averse towns are to potential litigation if such protection were not present the towns would tend to overly restrict activity on open space parcels unnecessarily. This would harm all and help none.

Thank you.

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